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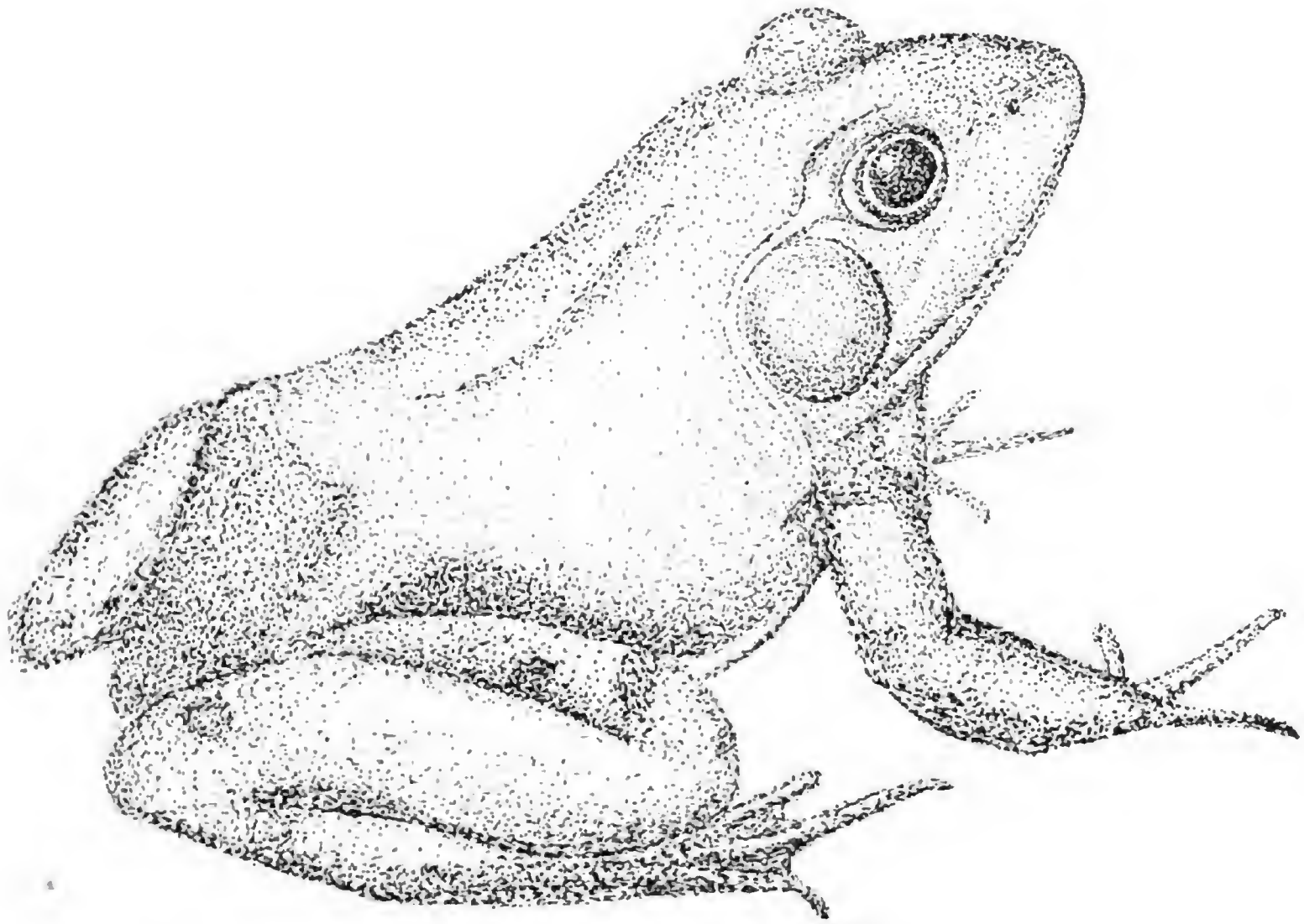

BULLETIN OF THE VIRGINIA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 6 1986 NUMBER 2

C A T E S B E I A N A

Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

VOLUME 6 SPRING 1986 NO. 2

Fall, 1986 Meeting Notice.....page 1
Editorial Policy.....page 2
Herpful Hints, Mite Infestation on Snakes by
David M. Moore, DVM.....page 4
Some Amphibian and Reptilian Records from
Loudoun Heights, Loudoun County, Virginia
by Franklin J. Tobey.....page 7
Scincella laterale on Warm Springs Mountain:
a preposterous distributional record
by Richard L. Hoffman.....page 11
Field Notes.....page 14
News and Notes.....page 16
VaHS Membership.....page 19
VaHS Membership Information.....page 23

BULLETIN INFORMATION

The Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles. Membership includes a subscription to Catesbeiana and admission to all meetings. dues are $5.00 per year and include Catesbeiana numbers 1 and 2 for that year. Dues are payable to: Laura Crews, Secretary-Treasurer, 412 Dunmore Drive, Newport News, VA 23602. Herpetological societies desiring exchange of publications should send copies of their society publications to Dr. Charles Neal, Dept. of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142. All manuscripts for publication should be submitted to Dr. Charles Neal.

MEETING NOTICE

The Fall Meeting of the VaHS will be held at the Stevens-McCorkle Science Building, Longwood College, Farmville, Virginia on October 11, 1986. Dr. Don Merkle is hosting the meeting. See page 16 for complete details.

Cover: Rana catesbeiana by Eugene Gourley.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Catesbeiana replaced the formal name of the Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society in 1981 to reflect the changes in the society's structure. Although the format of the bulletin changed dramatically, its adherence to the central theme of the science of Virginia herpetology has remained firm. Beginning with the editorship of F.J. Tobey (1958-1980) and continuing with D.A. Merkle (1981-1982) and J.C. Mitchell (1983-1985), the bulletin has published, with few exceptions, only scientific information and news on the herps of Virginia. We will maintain that tradition. During several meetings in 1980 and 1981, brief discussions addressed this point. It was agreed that Catesbeiana will publish articles pertaining to herpetology outside of Virginia only if insufficient material is on hand to complete an average size issue (about 18 pages). In this vein, articles pertaining to species found in Virginia will take precedence over those which do not. Rarely, if ever, will articles be reprinted in Catesbeiana after they have been published elsewhere. Anyone uncertain about the appropriateness of a manuscript should contact either Dr. Charles Neal or Dr. Eugene Gourley, coeditors.

MAJOR PAPERS

Manuscripts being submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult the style of articles in this issue for additional information. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the VaHS in addition to the coeditors. All changes must be approved by the author before publication; therefore, manuscripts should be submitted well in advance of March or September.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors, however, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

FIELD NOTES

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on a single species, groups of species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY AND LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA and OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or a

coeditor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent for verification and deposited in a permanent museum or sent to the VaHS. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second person.

The correct citation format: Croy, S. 1984. Field notes: Lampropeltis getulus niger. Catesbeiana 4(1):12.

HERPETOLOGICAL ARTWORK

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use it in an issue. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.

HERPFUL HINTS
Mite Infestation on Snakes

David M. Moore, DVM
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This premier column is not, I fear, written by an expert in clinical medicine and husbandry of reptiles. My only claim to fame would be the ownership of two red tailed boas and an Asian monitor lizard. However, I do possess an innate curiosity and a sizeable reprint file and book collection on reptiles. Since every person is a teacher (through their own life experiences) and every person is a student (you're never too old to learn new tricks, you sly dog!), I hope that my level of knowledge, as well as yours, will increase as I prepare these tidbits.

I received an inquiry recently from a concerned owner regarding treatment for mite infestation on snakes. Before delving into my little black bag for the home remedy, let me first acquaint you with the life story of mites. Unlike ABC Sports, I can't get up close and personal with each of the approximately 250 species of mites which have been described as reptilian parasites. We should, however, concentrate on the most common mite of captive snakes, Ophionyssus natricis (hereinafter to be referred to as "mite" - in legal jargon). This mite is (as all mites are) an arthropod, measuring about 0.6 to 1.3 mm in length - probably a little larger than the period at the end of this sentence. Females are yellow-brown when unfed, and dark red to black when engorged with a bloodmeal. They can be observed on or between the scales around the eyes, chin, and cloaca, but in heavy infestations may have a wider area of distribution over the body. Should you not directly visualize the mite on your snake, other telltale signs should tip you off as to potential infestation: restlessness manifested as twisting and rubbing of the body (at times other than shedding - "ecdysis"), or prolonged soaking in the water dish with frantic mites being found floating in the water after having abondoned ship. The latter, a form of reptilian baptism, is an attempt to drown those nasty little bloodsuckers, and though marginally successful in killing mites on the body, it does little to destroy those female mites who are off of the snake laying their eggs in cracks, crevices, and cage bedding. Thus the snake can rid itself of mites only temporarily, and will become reinfested when it leaves the water dish. Treatment should therefore be aimed at both the snake and its environment (but I'm getting ahead of myself in this life story).

Catesbeiana 6(2):4-6,1986

So what's the big deal if the snake has a few mites on it? These mites feed on blood, and to do so, they stick their barbed mouthparts through the snake's skin. This puncturing of the protective barrier of skin by the mite's mouthparts can cause a mechanical transfer of the bacteria Aeromonas hydrophila (also a cause of mouthrot in snakes) from the mite to the bloodstream of the snake, and may cause a hemorrhagic septicemia (a blood borne bacterial infection) which can debilitate or kill the snake. Mites can also transmit blood borne protozoal diseases such as Leukocytozoan. But of major importance during heavy mite infestation is the development of anemia in the snake: hundreds of mites, each consuming large quantities of red blood cells, reduce the oxygen carrying capacity of the snake's blood, leading to debilitation and death of the animal.

Now that we know that we don't want mites on our specimens, what do we do to treat/prevent them? In the case of Ophionyssus, you're one up on the competition. Unlike other species of mites which use several animal species as hosts during their life cycle (i.e., other reptiles, birds, or mammals), Ophionyssus can complete its life cycle on a single host. Whereas with the former you need to identify the carrier of the mite which is reinfesting your snake (i.e., wild rodents or birds), with the latter you need only concern yourself with the snake and its immediate environment. An aside: it is an excellent idea to quarantine new acquisitions prior to housing with other snakes in your colony. I didn't, and the new snake quickly seeded the cage and its cagemate with the creepy-crawlies. So for your peace of mind and your established colony's health, don't introduce new specimens until you are sure that they are "parasite free". Take an inventory of the areas the mites could hide in when they are off of the snake. Bedding, bark, tree limbs and old shed skins serve as hiding places for mites, and should be removed and discarded as soon as a mite infestation is discovered. Empty the cage and thoroughly wash it in hot water. It is advisable to avoid the use of phenol and cresol disinfectants (i.e., Lysol or Pinesol) since toxic reactions may occur in snakes if all the residues of these chemicals are not removed. Once the infestation of the cage is eliminated, you can direct your efforts toward the snake. Several authors have proposed a variety of treatments including desiccant powders and insecticide sprays or dips. Use of insecticides always carries an element of risk, and adverse toxic reactions in response to treatment have occurred occasionally in reptilian species. I have been successful in using a different treatment regime (though I can't claim it as my own - it was developed before my time). Following "cleansing" of the snake's environment, a one inch segment of a No Pest Strip (originally sold by Shell, but now marketed in supermarkets by Texize) is cut and placed either in a cloth bag or soft screenwire within the cage, in a form and size which cannot be eaten by the

snake. The cage is then covered with a cloth for several hours daily, assuring that adequate ventilation can still take place even when the cloth is on. The No Pest Strip is left in the cage for 3 to 4 days (providing no untoward reaction is observed -convulsions or paralysis). Since the mite eggs hatch within 1 to 4 days, you will be killing both the adults and the newly emerging larvae, thus breaking the life cycle.

I must insert a caveat regarding the No Pest Strip procedure. One author indicated that signs of toxicity were observed in small lizards (anoles). There is some confusion in his discussion, however, since he talks about No Pest Strips, but in fact used a 3 inch segment of a cat flea collar. The bottom line is: use the No Pest Strip method with caution - remove it if you see signs of toxicity in your animal, and seek immediate treatment of your specimen by your local veterinarian.

For additional informatin on reptilian parasites, I would suggest that you consult the following references:

Barnard, S. M. 1986. Color atlas of reptilian parasites. Part I. Protozoans. Compendium for Continuing Education of Veterinarians. 8(3):145-148.

Barnard, S. M. 1986. Color atlas of reptilian parasites. Part II. Flatworms and roundworms. "Compendium". 8(4):259-262.

Barnard S.M. 1986. Color atlas of reptilian parasites. Part III. Misc. endoparasites and ectoparasites. "Compendium". 8(5):287-290.

Diehl, K. 1973. Control of parasitic lizard mites. Vet. Med. Small Anim. Clin. p. 974.

Flynn, R. J. 1973. Parasites of laboratory animals. Iowa State University Press. pp. 507-642.

Frye, F. L. 1981. Biomedical and surgical aspects of captive reptile husbandry. Veterinary Medicine Publ. Co. pp. 195-227.

Jacobson, E. 1986. Parasitic diseases of reptiles. In: Fowler, M. E., ed. Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine. W. B. Saunders Co. pp. 162-81.

Marcus, L. C. 1981. Veterinary biology and medicine of captive amphibians and reptiles. Lea & Febiger. pp. 114-175.

Telford, S. R. 1971. Parasitic diseases of reptiles. J. Amer. Vet. Med. Assoc. 159:1644-1652.

SOME AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILIAN RECORDS FROM LOUDOUN HEIGHTS, LOUDOUN COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Franklin J. Tobey
Purcellville, VA

A pleasant valley is formed in Loudoun County between Harpers Ferry and Hillsboro by the two ridges which form a double water gap on the Potomac River in this vicinity. with the Blue Ridge Mountain to the west, and Short Hill to the east, we experience a late dawn and an early sunset. We are, literally, between the hills. The local geology owes much to the Weverton quartzite and a rotten (corroding) granite which the U.S. Geological Survey people call grano-diorite. Limestone occurs just over the ridges at Charles Town, WV, to the west, and at Point of Rocks, MD, and Lucketts, VA, to the east. It does not surface between the hills. Our water, as a result, has a pH that is slightly on the acidic side. The valley is drained by Piney Run and intermittant feeders. Most of the area was timbered over years ago. The good lumber trees have been removed and much of the area has been farmed during the past decades.

The immediate site which we occupy and on which we have found a variety of plants and animals is at a 500 ft. elevation. The ridges to east or west rise to about 1500 ft. At Harpers Ferry the river gorge is cut down to about 250 ft. elev. above sea level. The western boundary of the property is Rt. 671. An abandoned unimproved road forms our eastern boundary. It was the original road through the valley and remained the only route in and out until 1948. Route 602 forms the south boundary. It bends to parallel the ridges and passes the old Emerick schoolhouse, now a residence. Our hilltop was a strawberry farm for two or more generations. Rt. 602 turns in from Rt. 671 exactly one mile from the Potoma(c) Wayside where Rt. 671 originates at U.S. 340 near the bridge over the Potamac River. At the northern foot of the hill Piney Run overflows frequently to form a large meadow. We believe that the meadow is Joseph T. Collins' (Kansas) locality "5 miles west of Lovettsville". In that case, his collecting may add a few species to the list below.

Species List for Loudoun Heights area.

Ambystoma opacum (Marbled Salamander) Specimen was taken in October 1974 about one-quarter mile from Piney Run, one mile south of the river and a quarter-mile from our home. It was on a damp wooded hillside. We have a VaHS Slide Collection 2" x 2" color slide of the specimen taken by F. J. Tobey III. (VaHS Slides will be indicated hereafter as [VaHS].)

Bufo americanus americanus (American Toad) Several specimens have been collected, examined, and released around the house and outbuildings. We regret that grass cutting has reduced its habitat. We still see a few.

Hyla crucifer crucifer (Northern Spring Peeper) Several specimens were taken in drainage ditches at the edge of the road (Rt. 671) near Piney Run about one-half mile from the house.

Rana palustris (Pickerel Frog) The predominant frog species in grassy meadows around the property. Predation by garter snakes has been observed in areas of tall grass (1973-1975). Improved drainage, even in damp years, has altered the habitat sufficiently that they are now less common.

Rana sylvatica (Wood Frog) One specimen was collected in late October, 1981, and released after photography [VaHS] on December 5, 1981 at edge of Piney Run in good leaf cover. The frog was crossing the driveway in front of the house in late evening (7:00 pm) a mild, damp night. It was apparently headed for Piney Run which bends to form a northern arm at the foot of our hillside, toward the river.

Terrapene carolina carolina (Eastern Box Turtle) The most common turtle in our locality. We seem to have at least one specimen per acre (4.2 ac.) One very dry summer we found evidence of unsuccessful aestivation at the top of our hill. An individual box turtle tried to dig itself in under moss at the base of a locust tree. The turtle was found dead in Fall of the year after leaf debris had blown away. No hatchlings have been seen on the property.

Eumeces fasciatus (Five-lined Skink) We have seen only one (August, 1973) a juvenile with a bright blue tail lived under the old chicken house. Introduction of a family of three cats (to keep mice under control) has discouraged the skink population more than the mice. The skinks haven't returned; wish we could say the same for the mice.

Nerodia sipedon sipedon (Northern Water Snake) One or two specimens are found D.O.R. on Rt. 671 near the bridge over Piney Run each summer. This is the only opportunity to note that watersnakes are alive and well when they stay in Piney Run. No juvenile watersnakes have been observed.

Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis (Eastern Garter Snake) Still common about Loudoun Heights vicinity. Those on our property fed on pickerel frogs and hunted them in damp grassy areas.

Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta (Black Rat Snake) This is the most common of the snake species in our area. Cars are taking a high toll each summer. We have had black snakes, in residence, until masonry was pointed up at all windows and where the eaves meet the stone walls. From 1973 through 1975 they were frequently seen in spring going up the walls, vertically. One older specimen lives for a time each spring in a hollow apple tree. Hatchlings are common in the area from early September until frost, and in the spring.

Lampropeltis triangulum triangulum (Eastern Milk Snake) A juvenile and several hatchlings have been caught within a quarter-mile of the house. The juvenile, a reddish color [VaHS slide] was captured in the summer of 1974 in a meadow close to Piney Run, 1.5 mi. upstream from the Potomac River. The hatchling (preserved) was in a neighbor's swimming pool. It was collected by the neighbor, Michael Sustek, and has been given to Joe Mitchell.

Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen (Northern Copperhead) Frequently reported by neighbors but never seen on our property. There is no doubt that they occur on Piney Run. W.H. Martin, III, has stated that they den on Short Hill. Neighbors who claim to have "killed a copperhead" have been defensive about showing any evidence. It is suspected that they kill a milksnake or a juvenile black rat; not copperheads. There are a few of my friends who will scoop a snake up with a hoe into a deep bucket. If I see a snake amidst the debris in the bucket and identify it as a rat snake, they are surprised that I'm willing to reach in and pick it up by hand. (I have advertised that I don't touch venomous snakes.) We have had no venomous snake bite cases in the valley in the dozen years we've been in residence. The hatchlings photographed with eggs in a farmer's milk bucket and published in the LOUDOUN TIMES-MIRROR many years ago all were of this species; i.e., Black Rat Snakes. The farmer was firmly convinced that they were copperheads because of their reddish color.

Crotalus horridus horridus (Timber Rattlesnake) These occur on the talus slopes and quartzite outcroppings near the crest of Short Hill. W.H. (Marty) Martin, III, has amply demonstrated this to our satisfaction by a personally guided tour to a nursery, or ledge where gravid females wait out their full term. One gravid rattlesnake was "at home" the day he took us up to Shorot Hill for the visit. Only once in the past dozen or so years, to my knowledge, has a rattlesnake come down onto the road to sudden death. It was on Rt. 671, around July 25, 1975, and I was coming home from work (6:00 p.m.). Two men, one with a child's baseball bat, and the other with a tire iron, were beating a rattler to death in the north-bound lane as I passed. I

stopped and backed up, but too late to halt the slaughter. It was a sulfur-phased individual of about three feet in length. Little did they realize how easily they might have been bitten by getting that close to a rattler.

It is my hope to check out the damp areas of the Blue Ridge Mountain to our west for Ambystoma jeffersoninum (Jefferson Salamander) to extend the range in Virginia a bit. It has been found across the Potomac River in Maryland in the same ridge of mountains. All in good season!

Others have recorded these species for this locality

Desmognathus fuscus fuscus (Northern Dusky Salamander) KU-9356-74 (JTC)
Desmognathus monticola jeffersoni (Virginia Seal Salamander) USNM# (WLW)
Plethodon glutinosus glutinosus (Slimy Salamander) KU-9749-58 (JT Collins)
Plethodon cinereus cinereus (Red-backed Salamander) KU-9661-73 (JT Collins)
Eurycea bislineata bislineata (Northern Two-lined Salamander) KU49426-30 (JTC)
Bufo woodhousei fowleri (Fowler's Toad) USNM# (WLWitt)
Diadophis punctatus edwardsi (Northern Ringneck Snake) USNM# (WLWitt)

SCINCELLA LATERALE ON WARM SPRINGS MOUNTAIN: A PREPOSTEROUS DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD

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It is generally appreciated that the distribution of Scincella laterale (Say) essentially corresponds to the Austroriparian and Carolinian life zones in eastern United States with only a few localities known above 2000 ft. (cf. maps in Conant, 1975; Martof et al., 1980). In the northeastern part of the range, records become progressively confined to ever lower and more coastal areas; in Virginia, for instance, all of the known stations for S. laterale are east of the Blue Ridge (cf. Tobey, 1985).

In the context of such an obviously austral distribution, one might justifiably expect that any occurrences of the species in montane regions would be confined to the low valleys of those streams which would offer an avenue of entrance into otherwise inaccessible territory. This has indeed been tacitly invoked to explain the presence of S. laterale on the upper Potomac headwaters in northwestern West Virginia.

The discovery of S. laterale virtually at the top of one of the highest mountains in the Ridge & Valley Province of central western Virginia is thus a matter of more than casual interest. On May 17, 1986, I was collected carabid beetles along the old forest service road leading to the lookout tower on Bald Knob, a local prominence on Warm Springs Mountain about 5 miles south of Hot springs, Bath County. Turning stones and digging through leaf windrows in the roadside ditches had yielded only a modest variety of beetles, so that the discovery of a small skink beneath a stone partly embedded in the sandy substrate was a welcome surprise. As the creature lacked a median dorsal stripe it was naturally assumed to be an immature specimen of Eumeces anthracinus (Baird), and in fact it led a life of captivity for over a month under this identity. Gradually, however, some nagging doubts began to assert themselves: the head seemed too small for a juvenile E. anthracinus, and the body far too long for the short legs. Finally, examination of the head scales with a binocular microscope ruled out Eumeces entirely and substituted Scincella instead. At this point the animal was preserved, becoming amenable to a careful study which only confirmed the initial impression. The "window" of the lower eyelid was in fact present, and all details of scalation agreed with the description and illustrations in Smith's Handbook of Lizards.

Catesbeiana 6(2):11-13; 1986

So the significance of the matter escalated at once, from a trivial new county record for one species to an inexplicable distributional record for another. How are we to account for the presence of a basically lowland skink on a mountain top well out of the known range? Accidental (escapee) or intentional human involvement seems unlikely: who would transport such a species to such a remote place, and what are the odds that a single release would ever be recaptured? As implausible as it may seem, I am forced to favor the alternative, that Scincella laterale does exist on Bald Knob as a natural population.

During the 1930s, much of Warm Spring Mountain was burned off and for years the vicinity of the capture site was invested in a low dense scrub composed mostly of oak and rhododendron. Now much of this has attained substantial growth, but the basic environment remains relatively xeric and well-drained, the soil a sandy loam derived from the breakdown of Clinch sandstone beds. The elevation of the site is approximately 4200 feet (Healing Springs quadrangle, U.S.G.S.), about three hundred feet southward (downhill) from the lookout tower.

It must be at least considered that we have some kind of unlikely and out of place relict population from a Pleistocene (Hypsithermal) distributional area. If so, doubtless the same explanation, rather than upstream migration, would apply to the isolated populations in Hardy County, West Virginia. The discovery of S. laterale at Clifton Forge, at 1000 feet on the upper James River, would have been interesting but not surprising. Its discovery on Bald Knob seems so unusual as to justify use of the term "preposterous" in the title of this note.

In my 1945 list of herpesian species found in Alleghany County (only a few miles south of the S. laterale site in Bath County), I recorded what seemed at that time to be "Leiolopisma unicolor" on the basis of a specimen found on a mountain crest in 1942, not far from Clifton Forge but at an elevation of about 3000 ft. With the later capture of verified specimens of Eumces anthracinus in the same region, I assumed the earlier identification to be erroneous, the specimen itself being only an immature E. anthracinus, and this is how it was reported in my 1944 paper on Eumeces anthracinus in Virginia. However, the very strong possibility now exists that the 1942 specimen (not preserved) was really an individual of S. laterale. The two capture sites are about 3.2 miles (5 km) apart, and ecologically very similar.

If the occurrence of S. laterale on Bald Knob seems totally implausible, the capture of the specimen was miraculous. With my eyes adjusted to see insects, the first glimpse of the small lizard - only partly exposed - was registered as that of a small Plethodon cinereus and the stone was actually replaced. In almost the same instant, the fact was recalled that such a salamander did not occur in the region, so the stone was promptly torn aside and the lizard seized. Readers who have collected skinks will

appreciate my use of the term "miraculous" to announce that it was still there. After passing through the hands of Dr. J. C. Mitchell, the specimen will be deposited in the U.S.N.M. collection. Needless to say, I certainly intend to go back looking for more, but - knowing skinks - without a large fund of confidence that I will find any.

Last year, I reported the unlikely discovery of an adult Ambystoma opacum in a bog on the crest of Potts Mountain, in southwestern Alleghany County. At least in that case, the same species was known to occur along Potts Creek at the base of said mountain. The nearest locality for Scincella laterale, northern Bedford County, Virginia (Tobey, 1985: 77) is about 50 miles to the southeast and at least 3000 feet lower. What will be the next out-of-range surprise? Gastrophryne on Mount Rogers?

References

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Hoffman, Richard L., 1944. Eumeces anthracinus (Baird) in Virginia. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 57, pp. 123-124.

Martof, Bernard S., William M. Palmer, Joseph R. Bailey, Julian R. Harrison, and Jack Dermid, 1980. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas and Virginia. Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 264 pp.

Smith, Hobart M., 1946. Handbook of Lizards. Comstock Publishing Co., Ithaca, New York, 557 pages.

Tobey, Franklin J., 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey. Privately published, Purcellville, Virginia, 114 pp.

Heterodon platyrhinos (Eastern Hognose Snake): Sussex County, Co. Rt. 634, 0.8 km N. of Co. Rt. 604 intersection. April 25, 1986. D. Schwab.

Road killed (may have been shot) male eastern hognose snake. Neither Linzey and Clifford (1981, Snakes of Virginia, Univ. of Virginia Press, Charlottesville) nor Tobey (1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles - a Distributional Survey, Privately Published, Purcellville, VA, 114 pp.) show records of this species from Sussex County. The specimen is dark, but not black. The color is dusky brown, color 19 of Smithe (1975, Naturalist's Color Guide, Part 1, Am. Museum of Natural History, N.Y.). The snake will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution via the collection of C. A. Pague.

Don Schwab, P. O. Box 847, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Lampropeltis t. triangulum x L. t. elapsoides (Coastal Plains Milksnake): City of Suffolk, The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Hudnell Ditch, 1.7 km S. of New Ditch. April 15, 1986. M. Lane and D. Schwab.

Snake was found alive, collected for identification and measurements and was to be released at site of capture. The specimen was typical of the "coastal plains milksnake" Hybrid, the rings did not fully encircle the snake as in the Scarlet Kingsnake (L. t. elapsoides). The specimen measured 228 mm vent to nose; 34 mm tail; 19 red body rings, 43 subcaudals; 184 ventrals and a dorsal scale, mid-body count of 19; these measurements are consistent with Williams (1974, Systematics and Natural History of the American Milk Snake, Lampropeltis triangulum, Milwaukee Public Museum) for this hybrid snake. The specimen was to be released when weather conditions improved (i.e. rain stop and warmer), the snake died on April 18, 1986 causes unknown. Several brownish areas, perhaps fungus, were noted around the face, while making scale counts. The snake appeared healthy and showed no signs of trauma. The specimen was preserved and will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution via the collection of C. A. Pague.

In 1978, Schwab collected a specimen of this hybrid from Dismal Swamp, (Smithsonian Institution catalog number USNM 211453). The 1978 specimen was to be released but died for unknown reasons 4 days after capture (i.e. waiting for the rain to stop and warm up). The measurements for the 1978 specimen were: 238 mm nose to vent; 39 mm tail; 20 red rings and a dorsal scale count of 21 (Schwab, unpub. field notes).

Mike Lane, 1300 Babbtown Rd., Suffolk, VA 23434.

Chrysemys picta picta (Eastern Painted Turtle): Isle of Wight County, town of Smithfield, St. Rt. 10, 0.7 km E. of St. Rt. 10 (Bus.). June 2, 1986. D. Schwab.

A female painted turtle was found dead along the shoulder of the road. Tobey (1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles - a Distributional Survey, Privately Published, Purcellville, VA, 114 pp.) does not show a recorded specimen for this species for Isle of Wight. The specimen will be donated to the Smithsonian Institution via the collection of Chris Pague, Old Dominion University.

Don Schwab, P. O. Box 847, Suffolk, VA 23434.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES COLLECTED AND OBSERVED ON THE SPRING VHS MEETING FIELD TRIP IN CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

12 April 1986:

Sites were within 2-3 miles of Bowling Green.

FROGS:

Acris crepitans (also heard calling in daytime)
Hyla crucifer (also heard calling at night)
Hyla chrysoscelis (calling in trees in daytime)
Rana clamitans (tadpoles, also heard calling at night)
Rana catesbeiana (tadpoles, also heard calling at night)
Rana palustris (calling at night)
Rana virgatipes (calling at night)

SALAMANDERS:

Ambystoma opacum (larvae)
Hemidactylium scutatum
Notophthalmus viridescens
Plethodon glutinosus

SNAKES:

Carphophis amoenus
Elaphe obsoleta
Virginia valeriae

LIZARDS:

Eumeces fasciatus
Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus

TURTLES:

Chrysemys picta
Clemmys guttata
Pseudemys rubriventris
Sternotherus odoratus

Submitted by Joseph C. Mitchell

NEWS AND NOTES

Fall, 1986 VaHS Meeting
October 11, 1986

The Fall VaHS Meeting will be held Saturday, October 11, 1986 at Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia.

Meeting Place: Jeffers Auditorium
Stevens-McCorkle Science Building

Schedule:	9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Coffee and Donuts
	10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Business Meeting
	11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch at local Restaurants
	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Paper Session

Weather and time permitting, a field trip may be scheduled in the late afternoon.

Individuals wishing to make a presentation at the paper session should contact Dr. Donald A. Merkle; Department of Natural Sciences; Longwood College; Farmville, VA 23901 by October 1, 1986.

Minutes
VaHS Spring Meeting, April 12, 1986

Twenty people attended the spring meeting in Bowling Green. President Richard Hoffman opened the meeting at 10:30, and introduced the officers.

Old Business

Laura Crews read the Treasurer's report: the beginning balance in fall 1985 was $446.90. Major expenses since then included art board set-up for new brochures, $20.80. Also, five hundred copies of the updated brochure and a rubber deposit stamp cost $68.45. The spring issue of *Catesbeiana* cost $147.42. With the receipt of dues, the balance as of April 12 was $330.79.

Charles Neal gave the Co-Editor's report. One hundred and two issues of *Catesbeiana* were mailed at a cost of $1.44 per issue. Dr. David Moore, Director of Animal Resources at Virginia Tech, was contacted by Dr. Neal and

offered to submit husbandry articles for Catesbeiana. In addition, members agreed to continue the editorial policy of excluding advertisements for exotic fauna in the Catesbeiana, and to add on the introductory page that is a "refereed" publication.

Members debated continuing to exchange issues of Catesbeiana with other organizations, and if so, with which ones. Currently, the VaHS receives several publications from other societies, and as the issues accumulate, the question of where to keep the growing library (e.g. at a college or with an individual's collection) becomes increasingly acute. The editors will present the collection at the next meeting for further consideration and discussion. It was suggested that the VaHS might increase the number of museums to which Catesbeiana is sent, and decrease the number of societies to which it is sent gratis.

Joe Mitchell and Chris Pague reported on the status of their State Herpetological Survey research. Dr. Mitchell is researching reptiles and Mr. Pague is researching amphibians for their book titled Amphibians and Reptiles of Virginia. This publication is funded by state income tax donations. Research began in 1979, and the publication goal is for 1990. The researchers have examined museum specimens throughout the country to verify distributions. Of particular interest are dissected stomach and reproductive aspects of the specimens. Formal writing begins this year for the book, which in its completion will also contain plates and technical drawings.

According to Chris Pague, there is still a lack of field notes by individuals. especially of interest are local surveys and distributions.

The publication Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: a Distributional Survey, which was begun by the VaHS and completed by Frank Tobey, sold out soon after publication. a number of requests have since been received for the book, and the VaHS is considering reprinting it, with Mr. Tobey's permission to assume responsibility for the project. Aside from financial expense, the major concern is with determining the market for the book. Dale Brittle plans to investigate printing costs while Richard Hoffman investigates copyright questions. Answers to these and related questions should be obtained by the 1986 fall meeting.

New Business

The new VaHS brochures offer the option of purchasing just the membership list. A motion was made to change the wording from "I wish only to receive a membership list" to "I wish also to receive a membership list." This is to discourage the idea of simply purchasing the names of members for commercial purposes. The next printing of brochures will omit the line altogether.

The meeting ended in time for lunch, after which members enjoyed collecting trips in Bowling Green and in Fort A.P. Hill.

The fall meeting will be hosted by Dr. Don Merkle at Longwood College in Farmville.

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Middletown, VA 22645

LIBRARY-VHCC
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ZUG, George R.
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Arlington, VA 22205

Membership Application

I wish to ☐ initiate ☐ renew membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19_____ .

☐ I wish only to receive a membership list. Enclosed is $1.00 to cover cost.

Name _____

Address _____

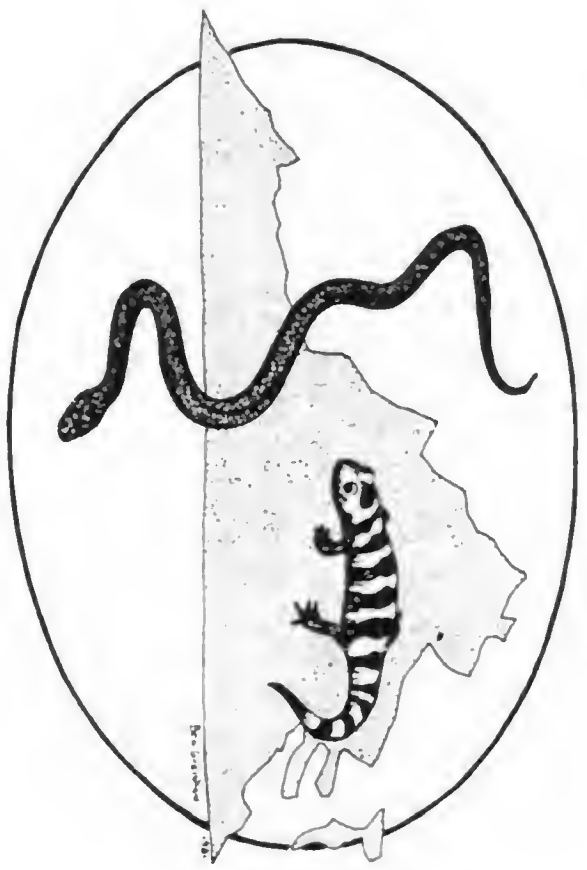
_____ Phone _____

Dues category: ☐ Regular (5.00) ☐ Family (7.50) ☐ Under 18 (3.00)

Interests: ☐ Reptiles ☐ Amphibians ☐ Captive husbandry
☐ Distribution ☐ Research ☐ Specifically: _____

Make checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the treasurer.

Virginia
Herpetological
Society



Help make
Herpetology come
alive in Virginia...

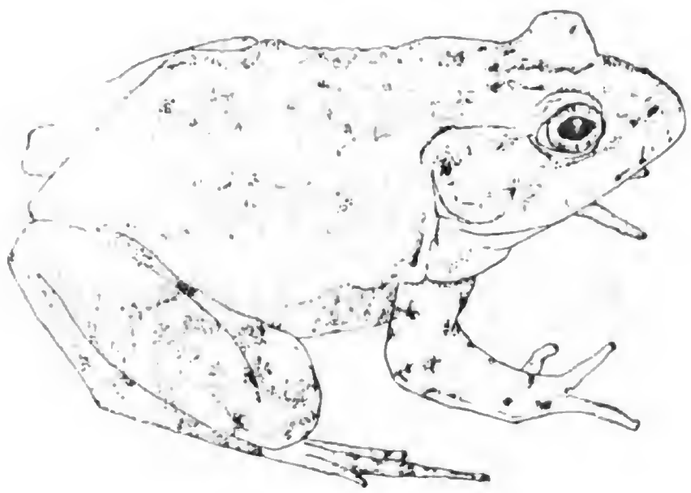
with the
Virginia
Herpetological
Society

The Virginia Herpetological Society

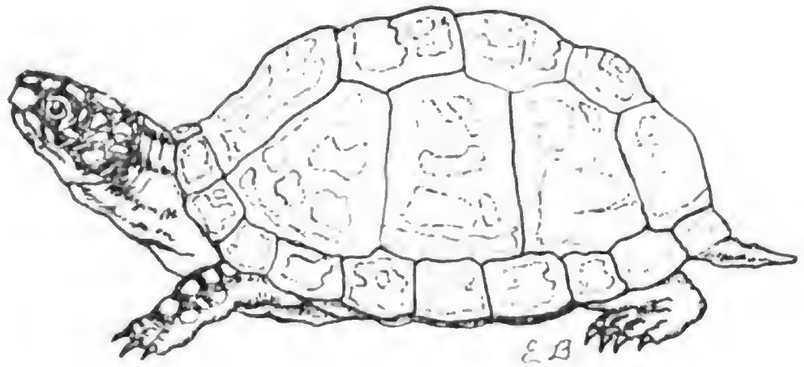
A society open to everyone with an interest in the conservation, study and care of reptiles and amphibians

The Virginia Herpetological Society was organized in 1958 to bring together people interested in advancing the knowledge of Virginia's reptiles and amphibians. The VaHS encourages the scientific study of Virginia's herpetofauna and its conservation. Educational activities continue to be important society functions.

Meetings are held twice each year, in Spring and Fall, at different locations throughout the state. The program is open to all members and includes a business meeting and a contributed papers session, during which members present information on their work with reptiles and amphibians, particularly in Virginia. An afternoon field trip usually follows.



The VaHS publishes a bulletin, CATESBEIANA, twice each year which contains articles, news and information on various aspects of Virginia herpetology. Members publish field notes and observations, distributional information and suggestions for improving husbandry techniques. Review articles appear occasionally. Material for inclusion should be sent to the CATESBEIANA editor.



Society dues are $5.00 per year ($3.00 for members under 18, and $7.50 for families).

Inquiries should be addressed to the secretary.

Membership can be initiated at meetings. Dues may be paid at that time.

President: Dr Richard L. Hoffman, Dept. of Biology, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142

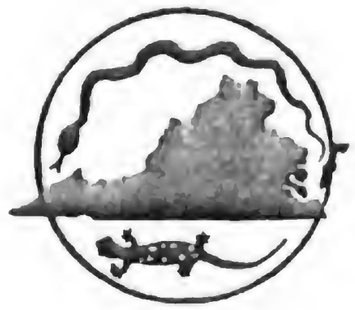
Vice President: Christopher A. Pague, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23508

Secretary/Treasurer: Laura Crews, 412 Dunmore Dr., Newport News, VA 23602 (804) 874-8943

Coeditors: Dr. Eugene Gourley and Dr. Charles Neal, Radford University, Radford, VA 24142

Advantages of VaHS membership

- Spring meeting with talks, slides, and field trip
- Fall meeting with lectures, film or workshop
- Society bulletin published twice per year
- Extensive research material available
- Awareness of current herpetological events
- Opportunity to meet others who share your interest in herps
- Support of VaHS education and conservation goals



invitation to the meeting of the

EASTERN SEABOARD HERPETOLOGICAL LEAGUE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1986
sponsored by
CONNECTICUT HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
held at the
PEABODY MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Open to all amateur and professional herpetologists, their families, friends, para professionals, and quests. No admission charge.

program:

10:00 A. M. - Registration and refreshments

11:00 - Welcoming remarks by representatives of Peabody Museum, Eastern Seaboard Herpetological League, and the Connecticut Herpetological Society

11:15 - "BREEDING BOAS AND PYTHONS IN CAPTIVITY"
John C. Brunner, Montrose, PA; breeder of snakes and lizards

Mr. Brunner is a highly-successful breeder of reptiles and operates his own reptile farm. Valuable technical data on housing and husbandry will be presented along with slides.

12:15 - Lunch and Museum Tour

1:30 - "SOME CHEMISTRY OF THE CROTALIDS"
Dr. Michael J. Uricheck, Professor of Chemistry, Western Connecticut State University and past-president of the Connecticut Herpetological Society

Emphasis will be placed on the most recent venom chemistry of Connecticut's two venomous snakes, the timber rattlesnake, Crotalus horridus, and the northern copperhead, Agkistrodon contortrix mokasen.

2:00 - "DEFENSE MECHANISMS OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES"
Dr. Martin J. Rosenberg, Professor of Biology, Case Western Reserve University; founder of the Northern Ohio Association of Herpetologists and editor of Notes From NOAH; editor of Herpetological Review

Topics covered will include camouflage, mimicry, venoms, bluffing, sound production, and others.

3:00 - Raffle drawing. Meeting of ESHL representatives.

3:30 - "PATHOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERESTED HERPERS"
Dr. George Whitney, DVM, Whitney Veterinary Clinic; past-officer of the Connecticut Herpetological Society

Interesting cases of fatal problems with pathology and retrospective considerations. Post mortem information will be discussed with the hope that others will recognize problems and be able to more intellegently deal with them. Slides and X-rays will be presented.

4:15 - PANEL DISCUSSION: "KEEPING REGIONAL HERP SOCIETIES HEALTHY"
A program on methods of strengthening and improving constituent groups of ESHL

PANEL MEMBERS:
Leonard Knapp - founder and secretary, Lehigh Valley Herpetological Society
Roy Pinney - noted author, naturalist, and president of New York Herpetological Society
Dr, Martin J. Rosenberg - founder of the Northern Ohio Association of Herpetologists and editor of Notes From NOAH
Elaine Uricheck - past Newsletter and Bulletin editor, Connecticut Herpetological Society

SPECIAL EVENTS

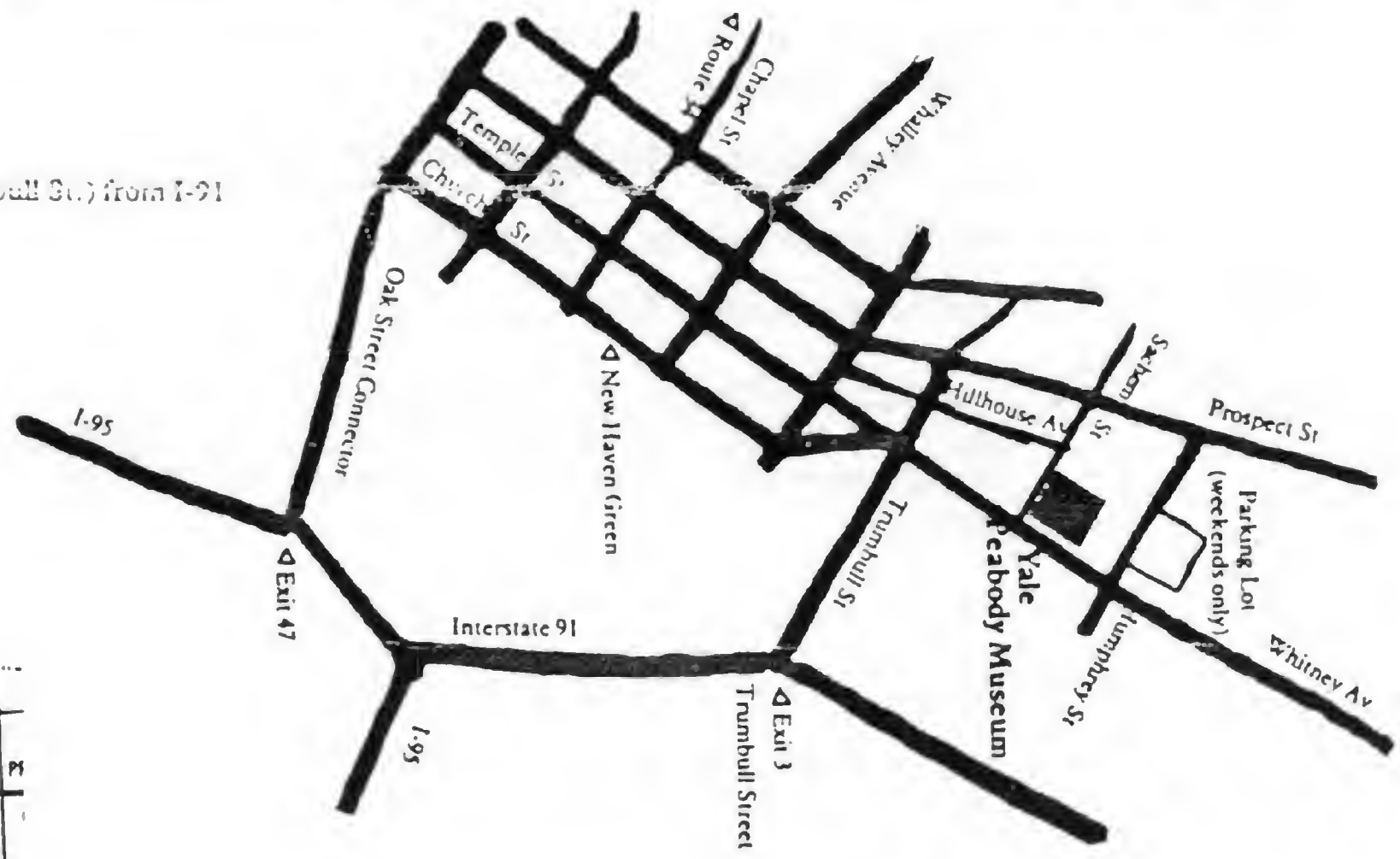
1. LIVE display of Connecticut reptiles; Showing of the award-winning film, "SNAKEBITE!"

2. Tour of the world-famous Peabody Museum of Natural History.

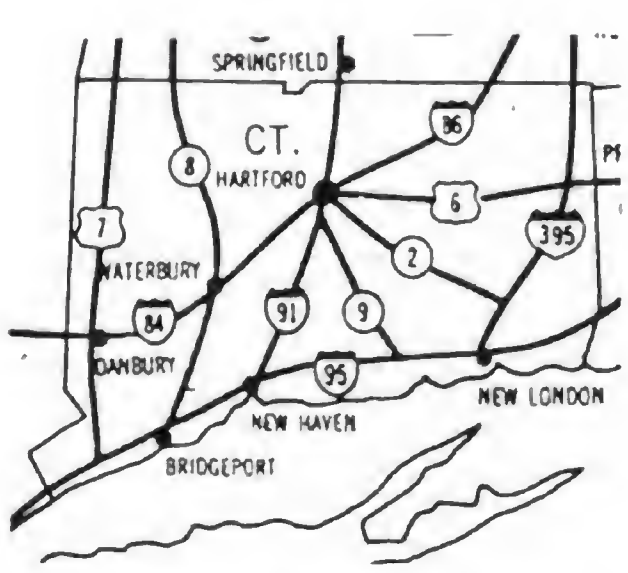
3. Raffle of herpetological items.

4. Display of herpetological arts and crafts.

DIRECTIONS: New Haven is easily reached from Interstate 95, Interstate 84, and Interstate 91.



CLOSE-UP OF PEABODY MUSEUM AREA



ACCESS TO CONNECTICUT

MEETING CO-CHAIRMEN: Dr. George Whitney and Dr. Michael J. Uricheck

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Dr. Michael J. Uricheck, 77 Faber Ave., Waterbury, CT 06704 (Phone 203 754-6839)